

MLN Matters Number: MM4168

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4168

Related CR Release Date: November 4, 2005

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: 742

Implementation Date: January 3, 2006

Note: This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 12.0, Effective January 1, 2006

Provider Types Affected

Physicians billing Medicare carriers

Provider Action Needed

This is a reminder for physicians to take note of the quarterly updates to the coding initiatives. The next round of CCI edits will be effective on January 1, 2006. Physicians may view the current CCI edits and the current Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) edits at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/physicians/cciedits> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) web site. The web site will be updated with the Version 12.0 edits as soon as they are effective.

Background

The National Correct Coding Initiative developed by CMS helps promote national correct coding methodologies and controls improper coding. The coding policies developed are based on:

- Coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual;
- National and local policies and edits;
- Coding guidelines developed by national societies;
- Analysis of standard medical and surgical practice; and
- Review of current coding practice.

The latest package of CCI edits, Version 12.0, is effective on January 1, 2006. This version will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996,

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to the present and will be organized in two tables: *Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding Edits* table and *MEC Edits* table.

Additional Information

The CCI and MEC files will maintain the file formats in the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04), Chapter 23, Section 20.9. This manual is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp#TopOfPage> on the CMS web site.

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